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Panther Sports News

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LS-Women's BB

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Reaching the final four of the Gateway Collegiate Athletic Conference Tournament, Eastern Illinois University women's basketball team ended its first NCAA Division I season at 22-7.

Illinois State eliminated EIU 94-64 last Wednesday in semi-final action.

"We exceeded our expectations this season. We had a great first season as a Division I team despite injuries and a lot of drawbacks," said Coach Barbara Hilke.

"We were underdogs from the start. When they started this conference, most people only saw it as having four teams instead of 10, and we were one of those teams that was overlooked. "But I think we proved them wrong with our respectable showing," Hilke said.

Nancy Kassebaum (Belleville-East), Kathy Lanter (Georgetown) and Kelly Waldrup (Coulterville) have completed successful EIU careers. Kassebaum ended her career as Eastern's all-time scoring (1865), assists (711) and steals (495) leader. She missed 10 games this season which prevented her from reaching the 2000-point plateau. She was voted COSIDA 3rd Team Academic All-American.

Lanter finished her career as Eastern's second all-time assist leader (390). She played junior varsity ball her freshman year scoring 154 points in 15 games. The 5-7 forward-guard started her final 71 games. She scored 1020 points (10.3 average) in three seasons. She averaged the most on-court time at just under 36 minutes.

Waldrup averaged 3.0 points and 2.1 assists this season.

"Kelly, Kathy and Nancy are all big losses for us," Hilke said. "But we won't be changing our style of play just because they're gone. We have the quickest guards in the conference, and some of them will be back.

"We also have a lot of freshmen on our team who have gotten valuable playing time this season. They along with Beth Sass (Elk Grove-Elk Grove Village), who is a great player, are our future."